

It's 3:00 AM on October 31st, 2024. I had woken up because my throat had dried up and I wanted a glass of water. I crawled out of bed and walked to the kitchen, I served my glass of water and started walking back to my bedroom but then stopped in the middle of the hallway and realized something felt off, I went around the whole house trying to find out what felt wrong and as soon as I got to the end of the hallway that's when I realized the basement door was left open, which is weird because nobody ever opens the basement door. I felt goosebumps running down my back and throughout my body, close and closer I got feeling my blood rushing and my heart pounding faster and faster. I got to the door and closed it slowly, the door started creaking but as soon as I was locking the door I heard the loudest noise coming from the basement, thoughts running through my head and I started sweating like crazy. Weirdly, nobody is living with me so what could that have been? I open the door and yell out "HELLO!., WHO'S DOWN THERE!." I turned on the light but it didn't do much. The house is so old that the lights didn't help much.

I walked down the basement stairs, my heart pounded faster and faster each step as I got closer to where the loud noise came from. I got to the bottom of the stairs and walked towards the noise... "A curtain? Where did that come from" I had said that was not there when I moved here. Thinking if I should move the curtain, "Maybe there's something behind it? " I thought to myself. I built up the courage, moved the curtain fast and closed my eyes as fast as I could. I opened my eyes slowly, it was a long red door which I don't remember ever being there. The clock struck at 3:33 AM, I opened the door and walked through to see if maybe it was a secret room or who knows maybe there was money in there or something expensive.

I woke up and looked around at my surroundings and it was just an endless-looking tree "Where am I?" I had asked myself. It looked like some abandoned ghost town, I couldn't see anybody from where I was yet I could hear people screaming from afar. I walked a long way almost like forever but as I was walking through the forest, I realized it had come to an end, people were running, screaming, and overall just trying to leave. As confused as I was I kept walking looking for help from someone but everybody was too busy looking for safety yet here I was standing like the lost

person I was. Right as I started backing up I bumped into somebody behind me “I’m so sorry, I’m so sorry” this lady kept on repeating to me, I looked her up and down, she had ripped-up clothing and dirty clothes. I asked her if she was okay and she responded “No, they are all out of control you need to get out of here, everyone is trying to leave” I asked why and she told me that a war was going on, I was confused and lost as one could be in this situation, I asked her what day it is “November 20th 1910” she had said. I had thought to myself “November 10th, 1910?” then it came to... November 20th, 1910 was when the Mexican Revolution began. “Am I experiencing this?” I said to myself. I asked her what I should do and she said to leave as far as possible, that’s what everyone was doing. So that’s what I did, I ran and ran back through those woods.

I almost gave up but that's when I heard that loud noise again, so I ran faster. BOOM!!, BOOM!! It was so loud you just couldn't ignore it. I finally found that long red door again. Only to find it was open, almost like it was waiting for me. I ran through the door, it had closed behind me. I’m back to where I had left off in my basement. Something felt off though like I should’ve reacted differently rather than running off to save myself, some families and children needed all the help they could get. I spent all day thinking, I had to go back... I just had to, it felt wrong leaving them all. So I thought of things to bring with me, most importantly I brought weapons, a gun and a knife. I grabbed a bag and put things in it: food, a first aid kit, a map, a compass, a sleeping bag, water purification, and money. All the main things you’d need to survive in this kind of situation... so I think. There were so many thoughts running through my head “Should I be doing this”, and “What if I don’t make it”. What am I saying? I need to go back for them, even if I’m risking my life. I open my basement door and walk down the stairs, the closer I get to the door, the more stressed out I get. There the goosebumps go again running down my spine throughout my body, I slowly open the door and walk through. I wake up again, and this time it’s different, something’s off. Once I figured out what was different, I screamed. “I’M A MAN?”. How could this happen, this didn’t happen the first time I went through the door.

I was scared for my life “Am I going to stay like this forever, even when I go back to my time” I thought to myself. I was stressed out even more than I originally had been. I calmed myself down and then thought to myself that maybe this had all happened to me for a reason. There must have been a good reason for all of this, but why me? As I ran around looking for families in need of help, I came across these few families that were struggling to get by so I told them to come with me and that I will help them. They followed me into this building to look for safety but when we entered these big men were guarding the inside of the building, and not noticing when we entered they went from behind us and grabbed us one by one. As scared as I was, all I could think about was why they would be doing this. They took us to this cave kind of jail-looking thing, we were underground so there was no point in yelling for help if nobody would hear us. They locked me and the families up like we were some kind of animals. Everyone is crying while I make an escape plan for us to break out. “WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?” The families screamed as they cried, the men looked at them all and just laughed. One of the men had opened the gate and grabbed one of the little girls. She tried defending herself but that made the man very unhappy and he threw her back into the cage. When she got thrown she hit her head on the concrete wall which caused her to pass out. When the guard wasn’t paying attention I looked through my bag, grabbed my gun, and shot him. As he fell on the ground I reached my hand out and grabbed the keys that were attached to his belt. I unlocked the gate, carried the little girl and told the families to start following me. We ran out of the building as fast as we could, we ran through the forest and for a while until we got to a river, that’s when I started searching into my bag and grabbed my water purification and started to use it. Now that I had clean water I gave some to the little girl so she could feel better after hitting her head hard. We walked more until it got so dark outside you could barely see a path or anything in front of you, so we found a good spot to stay for the night. We gathered some sticks and earlier I had bought some matches. We made a fire to stay warm for the night because it was cold outside. I got into my sleeping bag and slept near the fire to keep warm all night. The next morning we walked and walked for hours and when we saw an animal we would use my knife to cut it and then

use the fire to cook it whenever we would get hungry, then when it got dark we camped out. And it was the same thing over and over again. Walk for hours, eat, camp out, wake up and repeat. This went on for so long repeating the same things for so long almost like a never-ending cycle. On the days we were walking we heard a loud noise almost like a huge animal, we looked behind us and saw an extremely large bear running towards us, we started running as fast as we could as a group making sure nothing and nobody was left behind, as we were running from the bear we started to not see him anymore but there was a big problem, we were lost. With all that running and fear no one had time to look at the directions we were going. As we panicked I started to remember that I had brought a compass and a map with me, I reached into my backpack and grabbed both the compass and the map. I gave the compass to one of the mothers, and then I kept the map to find out the directions and the paths that we needed to be taking. Our destination was the United States because it was the safest for now to get these families to safety or some kind of shelter. As we got back on our feet it started to get dark, we were only 3 hours away but still really tired from walking all day so we hunted our food, collected sticks and made the fire, then cooked the animal, ate it then went to bed. The next morning we walked and walked, now we were only an hour away. 57 minutes after walking, all of our eyes widened, and we could smell the beautiful fresh air and freshly cut grass outside. We ran towards it and dropped to the ground from relief of all the pain, stress and tears that were put out throughout this journey of ours. Each family goes out their separate ways to start a safe new life that they needed but before they left they thanked me “We couldn’t have done it if it wasn’t thanks to you” They offered me money but knowing the time and life is going back to I declined the offer and told them “It was my pleasure and I really should be thanking you guys, seeing how much you all love each other made me realize how much time I should be spending with my family”. “Family is important to us so a second without each other can feel like hours, almost days,” they told me. We went our separate ways and I heard that loud bang again. “The door,” I thought, I went towards the noise and there it was. Once again it opened as if it was waiting for me, I walked through and it closed behind me. I was back in my basement. I looked behind me and the

door was gone. “That's weird, I guess I did what was needed”. I walked upstairs out of this creepy basement of mine and went to my room. I was scared to look at my reflection but I did anyway “Phew I’m back to myself, although it was fun being a guy for a little” I texted my family if they wanted to join me for lunch my treat, they were all so shocked because usually when they ask I put work over everything since I started living on my own. But realizing now that family always comes first...(THE END)